



Ray Graham  
Association

*Empowering people with disabilities*

October 13, 2011

RE: Written Statement to the Budgeting for Results Commission

Dear Members of the Budgeting for Results Commission,

Ray Graham Association for People with Disabilities provides services and supports to nearly 2,000 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. We applaud the concept of Budgeting for Results and the opportunity your commission has provided to solicit input from your community partners.

Ray Graham Association has proudly produced results and demonstrated the return on our funder's investments for many years. In addition to receiving state funding, we have been the recipient of funds from various foundations, corporations, and the United Way. Due in large part to our ability to utilize United Way funds effectively and efficiently to impact employment and health outcomes for people we support, we have been recognized as United Way's Community Partner for 2011.

Our organization collects meaningful data and uses this data to analyze results and to drive decision making. As just one example, for more than a decade, Ray Graham Association has been using the Council on Quality and Leadership's (CQL) Personal Outcome Measure tool. This tool individually assesses the presence/absence of 21 "outcomes" in a person's life, including, but certainly not limited to, safety (personal safety and environmental), best possible health, employment, community participation, integration, and achievement of personal goals. This person centered data is of course used for individual planning, but it is also aggregated and utilized for measuring success and strategic planning for our organization.

We believe that recipients of funds from our state (i.e. tax payers) should absolutely be accountable and produce results. We also believe that there is a real disconnect between the Department of Human Services and community providers in terms of knowledge of the scope of work that is really done in the community system, knowledge of data systems that are already in existence and being used by capable providers across the state, and understanding what it takes in terms of resources to meet the needs of people. In order to achieve a mutually beneficial transition to Budgeting for Results, the Department must be open to feedback and communication with their various stakeholders.

The following comments pertain to the **Results, Goals, and Sub Goals** document:

**Result 1:** Transition planning is a key mandated component of the education process for students with disabilities. When speaking of special education, we definitely agree that supports for students to

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perform to the best of their abilities is key, however, these students should also be prepared for and linked to post secondary opportunities including but not limited to employment, education, and supports from a community service provider.

**Result #2:** Throughout our state, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities earn wages below the minimum wage standard in sheltered workshops. We encourage the commission to place a high value on employment outcomes for people with disabilities that result in wages at or above the minimum wage in integrated employer settings.

**Result #4:** Illinois' State Operated Developmental Centers that warehouse people with intellectual and developmental disabilities must be held to same expectations as community based service providers. We encourage the commission to closely examine the return on the state's investment. Further, there is no factual data in Illinois that demonstrates that people living in SODCs cannot be supported by community services providers, assuming necessary resources are available.


Additionally, the commission should consider adding to this Result area the need to align services with recent Consent Decrees, including Ligas, and the announcements of the SODC closures.

**Result #5:** Illinois should strive to join fourteen other states that became free of institutions for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Nationally, in 1968 there were 194,650 individuals living in state institutions. In 2009, there were 33,732 individuals in state institutions in the US, and this number continues to drop. Clearly, these settings are obsolete and being phased out. To put Illinois' situation in perspective, when Mabley and Jacksonville close, there will still be six other state institutions in Illinois with 1,687 people segregated from society. We will continue to institutionalize more people with intellectual and developmental disabilities than 47 other states.

**Result 6:** We are in absolute agreement!

As this process continues to unfold, I urge the commission to place high value on the lives of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. I would be available to discuss my written statement further. I can be reached at [kimz@raygraham.org](mailto:kimz@raygraham.org) or (630) 620-2222.

Best regards,



Kim Zoeller  
President and CEO